

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner to open on the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, LB 325 would change some of the accounting in DAS from a General Fund base over to a revolving fund. Currently, this accounting is paid for, about 1,800,000 a year is total General Funds or so. In the bill preaudit would continue to be General Fund, which is around a quarter of a million dollars, then the balance of it would be funded by revolving fund. The net effect is a reduction, once it has a full year's operation, of close to 900,000 General Fund. In the process the balance would be made up from either cash, federal or other revolving funds and a small amount of trust fund, which will then pay that cost. Done this a number of times in DAS where instead of paying the full cost out of General Fund, you pay an appropriate amount from other fund sources, such as the federal or cash funds, and results in a saving in General Fund. The monitoring of expenditures, of course, would be done both through the appropriations process of the agency involved, as well as the review of DAS budgets itself, so there's no loss of...of accountability as far as the Legislature is concerned, but it does result in a...not a reduction in cost but a reduction on the impact to the General Fund. I'd move the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Kristensen announces that there are guests visiting the Legislature today. Mr. Zan is here from the People's Republic of China and Mr. Robert Sun is here from the U.S. State Department. They are both under the south balcony. Will you both stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President and members, I just wanted to simply say I support this. Once again, it makes for a more accurate cost accounting, places the costs where they appropriately should be, makes a more realistic budget, more accurately reflects true costs of what it is in the agencies, via DAS, and I support the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Is there any further discussion on the advancement of LB 325? Seeing none, Senator Warner waives closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 325. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.